

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The imprisonment of Bishop Kaczmarek and the arrest of Cardinal Wyszynski exercised a profound, though varying, impression on at least two sections of the community, namely the peasants and the educated class.
2. The Polish peasants, being deeply religious, did not believe a single word of the regime propaganda accompanying the "show" trial of Bishop Kaczmarek. Nevertheless, this trial, and the later arrest of Cardinal Wyszynski, plunged the peasants into a deep depression, and increased their hostility to Communism and the regime.
3. As regards the educated classes, the impression made by the arrest of the Cardinal was not as strong as might have been expected. The reason for this was that the "intelligentsia", being accustomed to reading the press and listening to the radio, had become as it were immunized by the trial of Bishop Kaczmarek, in the course of which the regime made skillful efforts to undermine the people's confidence in the Vatican. These efforts were to a certain degree successful, perhaps because Pope Pius XII is not very popular with the Polish educated class owing to his alleged pro-German sentiments. He is accused of having done nothing to relieve the sufferings of the Polish nation under the German occupation, and is blamed for not having appointed any bishops to the dioceses of the "Recovered Territories", substituting instead Vicars-General (who were also lately appointed to the dioceses of Krakow and Stalinogrod).

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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